

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7-11 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 12-13 have been cancelled.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite the Process S-1 and S-2. Support for the process S-1 and S-2 can be found in the last two paragraphs of page 155 of the specification. Also, claim 4 has been amended to recite the proviso that when the multifunctional low-molecular compound (K) is a halogenated silane, then the functional group of the polymer having a functional group at the terminal thereof is a hydroxyl containing group. Support for this proviso can be found in Reaction 21 on page 162.

All other amendments have been made to delete certain embodiments.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-Amendment.

I. Interview

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has conducted a personal Interview with Applicants' representative, Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (#43,575) on August 19, 2008. The Examiner was very helpful in characterizing the outstanding issues.

It is noted that the above-amendment is essentially identical to the proposed amendment discussed with the Examiner during the Interview except that claim 4 now includes the proviso which is located in the description of Process S-1 of claim 4. This proviso has been added to further distinguish from the cited Japanese documents.

Details of the Interview and the newly added proviso are given below.

II. Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4, 5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner objects to the term "residue" in claim 4 as this term is used in the phrase "multifunctional low-molecular compound *residue*." The amendment to claim 4 includes a description of the Processes S-1 and S-2. During the Interview, it was noted that the

description of the Processes S-1 and S-2 makes it clear that the multifunctional low-molecular compound is a reactant that bonds to (co)polymer P⁶ and the resulting compound would have a "multifunctional low-molecular compound residue" therein.

As noted from the Interview Summary form, the Examiner provisionally agreed that this proposed amendment would overcome this rejection. Applicants now respectfully request that the Examiner officially withdraws the rejection.

III. Prior Art based Issues

The following prior art based Rejections are pending:

- A. Claims 4, 5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative obvious over Janssen et al., EP 0856542 (EP '542); and
- B. Claims 4, 5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either JP 58-217505 (JP '505) or JP 07-316225 (JP '225).

Applicants respectfully traverse Rejections A and B.

With respect to EP '542, the Examiner provisionally agreed during the Interview that the amendment to claim 4 deleting the term "trihydroxybenzene" would distinguish the present invention from EP '542. Applicants now respectfully request that the Examiner officially withdraws Rejection A.

With respect to JP '505 and JP '225 (collectively "the Japanese references"), the Examiner requested copies of the Japanese references and the English translation of the Japanese Office Action that was submitted with the PTO in the letter dated September 12, 2007. The Examiner will find these documents attached hereto.

During the Interview, the Examiner provisionally agreed that the Process S-2 reaction is not fairly suggested by the Japanese references, since the Japanese references are silent with respect to a ring-opening polymerizable monomer (E).

With respect to Process S-1, the Examiner did not believe that Process S-1 distinguishes from the Japanese references. The Examiner relied on the description of the Japanese references as set forth in the Japanese Office Action that was submitted to the PTO in the letter dated September 12, 2007. The Japanese Office Action indicates that the Japanese references teach the reaction between a silane (such as monomethylsilane) and an ethylene (co)polymer having terminal vinyl groups. The Examiner believes that the final product of this reaction of the Japanese references would be the same product as formed by the reaction between a halogenated silane (multifunctional low-molecular compound (K)) and a polymer having a functional group at the terminal thereof as described in Process S-1.

Without conceding that the Examiner has correctly characterized the contents of the Japanese references, but rather to advance prosecution, Applicants have further amended claim 4 to distinguish Process S-1 from the Examiner's characterization of the Japanese references. Applicants amendment to claim 4 distinguishes Process S-1 from the teachings of the Japanese references by clarifying the types of functional groups which are on the polymer having a functional group at the terminal thereof described in process S-1. This amendment clarifies that the final compound would not link the polyolefin with the silane in the same manner as described in the Japanese references.

Using Reaction 21 on page 162 for written description support, Applicants have added a proviso to claim 4 which recites that the halogen atom of the multi-functional low-molecular with compound (K) reacts with a hydroxyl containing group on the polymer. In this reaction it appears that the product would have an ether linkage (and possibly other linkages such as a -Si-carbonyl-polyolefin linkage).

As such, it appears that amended claim 4 distinguishes from the Japanese references, and withdrawal of Rejection B is respectfully requested.

IV. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicants have not yet received the signed copy of the PTO/SB08 form which was enclosed with the February 20, 2007 IDS. The Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a signed copy of the PTO-SB08 form in the next communication.

In view of the above Amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

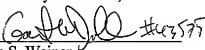
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., Reg. No. 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #43575

Marc S. Weiner
Registration No.: 32,181 ^{for}
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attached:

- a) JP '505
- b) JP '225
- c) the English translation of the Japanese Office Action that was submitted with the PTO in the letter dated September 12, 2007.